

Questionnaire for 2009 Mayoral Candidates by Dan Fein, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of NYC

1. Generally. May 1 since 2006 Socialist Workers Party campaigners have marched in New York City for the immediate and unconditional legalization of undocumented workers. The fight for *legalization now* is a fight for the entire working class, as any divisions weakens working people. This is the most important issue facing the trade unions that must organize *all* workers to be effective and regain their strength. In NYC tens of thousands of undocumented workers are super-exploited by the bosses who pay them less than minimum wage and receive no benefits. If elected mayor I will use my office to mobilize working people against the raids and deportations, EVerify programs, and the whole gamut of tactics the Obama administration, following the tracks of his predecessor, is carrying out through ICE, the IRS, and local cops and other government agents.
2. Drop-Out Crisis. Students, whose first language is not English, should be taught in their native language. I support bi-lingual education.
3. English Classes. I support free adult English classes and I oppose the drastic cuts to these programs. Today millions are being thrown out of work as the capitalist rulers seek to make us – working people – pay for the crisis of their system. The ruling class is launching a frontal assault on basic living conditions of working people, from jobs and wages to pensions, health care, housing, and essential public services. This offensive has just barely begun. Any education reform under capitalism is a fraud. A socialist future offers all working people the perspective of lifetime of free education, including periodic sabbaticals to study whatever you choose.
4. Legal services. I favor free and expanded legal services to defend the rights of immigrants.
5. Worker Centers. This has been a flash-point for anti-immigrant right-wing forces who favor deportations. All workers need a job and the official unemployment rate in NYC is now more than 10%. The real figure is much higher. The Socialist Workers Party candidates call for a federally funded crash public workers program to put millions to work at union scale to build schools, hospitals, roads, child-care centers and public transportation.
6. Police Relations. The role of police under capitalism to look out for the interests of the wealthy capitalist class and to terrorize working people. The police cannot be reformed into any thing other than a repressive force used against workers. I favor large mobilizations in the streets to demand the jailing of killer cops.

7. Immigrant enforcement. I oppose all deportations and I will end the city's participation on the federal immigration enforcement program at Department of corrections facilities.
8. Immigration Reform. There is only one immigration reform that eliminates the second-class status of undocumented workers and that is immediate and unconditional legalization.
9. Health Care Access. Obama's plan and all the others being debated in Washington favor the insurance and hospital industries and major drug companies, and includes further cuts in Medicare and Medicaid. Their plans exclude immigrants and do not include funds for abortions. I favor free, universal lifetime medical care for all.
10. Parent engagement. There can be no education reform under capitalism. The education system, under capitalism, is not about education but indoctrination of young people to obey rules, not question authority and go along with the system. This is done to prepare working-class youth to not revolt against exploitation and oppression.
11. Affordable Housing. Under the capitalist system housing is a commodity for sold or rented for a profit by the owners and landlords. The Socialist Workers party candidates say that affordable quality housing is a human right and should be guaranteed as such by the government. To end evictions and foreclosures, I favor nationalization of the land and housing stock and thereby guaranteeing working people inexpensive, attractive, and quality housing. This can only happen after the working class takes political power out of the hands of the capitalist class through a revolutionary struggle and reorganizes the economy and all social relations in the interests of workers and farmers.
12. Asthma. Unsanitary housing and pollution contribute to health problems. The private profit system makes a clean and safe environment impossible as the capitalist find it profitable to pollute the air and water. Strong, militant unions can help fight for safety on the job, and a clean environment.